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THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 15 February 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit a letter dated 8 February 1995 from His Excellency Mr. Alija Izetbegović, President of the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, addressed to you.

May I ask for your kind assistance in distributing this letter and its annex as a document of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 8 February 1995 from the President of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the Secretary-General

The Sarajevo Airport and the route from the airport to the city were allocated for United Nations usage under special agreements. This arrangement was meant to facilitate the airlift and the supply of humanitarian aid to Sarajevo. United Nations activities at the airport and transportation from the airport to the city are now under the virtual control of the Serbian aggressor side and no longer under United Nations control, contradicting our agreements and the United Nations mandate.

Currently, those Serbs deployed at the airport have paralysed the United Nations work, while all United Nations agencies are effectively blocked at the airport and can only make deliveries into the city if and when the Serbian aggressor side allows. For months now, medical supplies, food for children, equipment provided for the Action Plan for Sarajevo and other commodities intended for Sarajevo remain stocked at the airport.

With the establishment of a Serb aggressor checkpoint on a route allocated for exclusive United Nations use, the United Nations has lost control of this route, forcing all commodities to pass through the checkpoint at which the Serbian aggressor decides whether or not to give transport clearance to United Nations organizations, as well as frequently looting these deliveries.

The current airlift situation has challenged and brought into question the entire mandate and the dignity of the United Nations.

We demand that the airport and the route from the airport to the city be placed under the full control of the United Nations, in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the agreements. Furthermore, Serbian control may be established only where aeroplanes are unloaded (so as to verify that the airlift is not being used to deliver military arms).

We also demand the removal from the airport of those local staff other than the unloading inspectors. All other commodities handling must be in the exclusive authority of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

Any other solution is unacceptable to our Government. We hope that this request will be acted upon as soon as possible to allow normalization of the aid delivery.

(Signed) Alija IZETBEGOVIĆ